

**PE1400/E**

**Rural and Environment Directorate**  
Business Management Team

T: 0300 244 9241

E: dave.thomson@scotland.gsi.gov.uk



Anne Peat  
Public Petitions Committee  
Scottish Parliament  
T3.40  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP

12 December 2011

Dear Ms Peat,

### **CONSIDERATION OF PETITION PE1400**

Thank you for your letter dated 5 December asking an update of petition PE1400 on banning the use of wild animals in circuses, submitted by Libby Anderson. You asked what action it is proposing to take and to what timescale. I am responding on behalf of Dr Beverley Williams.

As mentioned in Dr Williams' response of 27 October, there remain outstanding legal issues that may impact on whether a ban is achievable, which will in turn impact on whether the consultation should cover a ban, or should concentrate on regulation. They have yet to receive advice on these legal issues and, in order that this advice can be fully considered, it is proposed to respond to the committee by the end of February, rather than January as suggested in her earlier response.

I apologise for this delay, but thought Dr Williams thought it would be better to fully consider the implications before responding to the committee.

Yours sincerely

**Dave Thomson**  
Business Manager  
Rural and Environment Directorate